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learned societies in Great Britain and France, as well as the great French and Italian historical and scientific collections. Another important series is that of Specifications of Patents, presented by the British government, and now numbering about seven hundred volumes, conveniently arranged for reference in a room exclusively appropriated to them.

In the preparation of this "Index," and also of the smaller one of 1858, the efforts of the Trustees have been efficiently seconded by the accomplished Superintendent of the library, Mr. Charles C. Jewett, and by the various assistants employed on the work. In simplicity and convenience of arrangement it leaves nothing to be desired, while the thorough bibliographical knowledge displayed in it doubles its usefulness. We have never, indeed, seen a catalogue better adapted for popular use, and we cannot but congratulate the Trustees on their wise decision in adopting the plan on which it is based at the very outset of their labors. It is strictly alphabetical in arrangement,—the full titles of the books being placed under the names of their authors, while the titles in an abbreviated form are also placed under their respective subjects. When the name of the author is not known, the book is registered under one or more of the principal words in the title. The usefulness of the "Index" is also much increased by the insertion of a brief summary of the contents of every work of more than one volume which treats of numerous topics, or which includes distinct productions, and also by the careful separation of the works of different authors of the same name. Complete alphabetical lists of the documents published by order of Congress, and of the Sessional Papers of the British Parliament, are also given. These lists fill more than forty pages, closely printed in double columns, and render the examination of the collection, thus catalogued for the first time, easy and convenient. Every student of history who has ever had occasion to consult any of these documents will readily appreciate the amount of care and labor necessary in the preparation of two such catalogues, and will feel grateful for the labor bestowed on them.

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- 10.—*Poems on Various Subjects, but chiefly Illustrative of the Events and Actors in the American War of Independence.* By PHILIP FRENEAU. Reprinted from the rare Edition printed at Philadelphia in 1786. With a Preface. London: John Russell Smith. 1861. 16mo. pp. xxii. and 362.

AMONG the poets of the Revolution who contributed most effectually to animate the Colonists in their struggle with England, Philip Freneau

holds the chief place. During the war, and for several years afterward, he enjoyed a large measure of popularity ; and since that time many of his productions have received high praise, both at home and abroad. Yet no American edition of his Poems, we believe, has appeared for nearly half a century ; and for the beautiful volume named above, we are indebted to the antiquarian taste of an English publisher. It is certainly a noteworthy circumstance, that while we have thus neglected the writings of one of our earliest and most successful humorists, they should have been deemed worthy of republication in the very country which he so cordially detested, and so sharply satirized. If, however, we retrace the incidents of his career after the establishment of independence, we shall find that this neglect of his writings is owing to the spirit of opposition excited by his violent partisanship, and to the damaging effect of the charges brought against him by the Federalists, rather than to a disposition to deny his merits as a poet of the people.

He was descended from one of the Huguenot families which fled to America after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes, and was born in New York on the 2d of January, 1752. At the age of fifteen he entered the College at Princeton, New Jersey, then under the Presidency of Dr. Witherspoon ; and in 1771 he was graduated, in the same class with James Madison. Among his college contemporaries were several other young men of promise, who afterward rose to distinction in public life,—Brockholst Livingston, for several years one of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States ; William Bradford, Attorney-General in the administration of President Washington ; Hugh H. Brackenridge, distinguished both as a writer and a jurist ; and the notorious Aaron Burr. Of his college life we know very little ; but he seems to have acquired the elements of a good classical education, and to have shown at an early age an aptitude for poetical composition. Several of his published pieces were written before he left college, and one, "The Poetical History of the Prophet Jonah," which bears the date of 1768, contains some vigorous and well-turned lines. A college poem composed in connection with Brackenridge in 1771, and published at Philadelphia in the following year, also possesses considerable merit, both in respect to the ease of its versification and to the beauty of its descriptions. Though as a whole it bears the marks of youth, some parts are worthy of a person of mature years, and it will not suffer by comparison with similar productions at the present day.

After leaving college he led a somewhat unsettled life, residing successively in New York, Philadelphia, and several other places ; but at all times he was a zealous advocate of the rights of the Colonists. Even before the commencement of the war his pen found frequent

employment in describing the wrongs suffered by them ; and after hostilities began, he lost no opportunity of ridiculing the English leaders and heaping reproach on them. In 1776 he visited the Danish West Indies, and while there he wrote several of his longest, but not his best pieces. Two years afterward he made a voyage to Bermuda. On his return, he became a resident of Philadelphia, where he was for a few months editor of "The United States Magazine," a periodical of some reputation at that time, published by Francis Bailey, a well-known bookseller. In 1780, he again sailed for the West Indies, but the vessel in which he embarked had scarcely passed the Capes of the Delaware before she was captured by an English cruiser. Her passengers and crew were carried to New York, and placed on board the Scorpion prison-ship ; and Freneau, having fallen sick, was subsequently transferred to the Hunter, a hulk used as a hospital-ship, where his sufferings seem to have been even greater than while he was on board of the Scorpion. The doctor was both an ignoramus and a brute ; and the history of this period of his life was never forgotten by Freneau. It forms the subject of one of his most spirited poems, "The British Prison-Ship," and doubtless gave increased bitterness to many of his other pieces.

In the course of the following year he recovered his liberty, and, returning to Philadelphia, he became a frequent contributor in both prose and verse to the columns of "The Freeman's Journal." After the close of the war he seems to have led a still more checkered life, being sometimes employed as an editor, while at other periods he was engaged in mercantile pursuits, and had command of a vessel in several voyages to the West Indies and to the Southern States. In 1790 we find him acting as editor of the New York "Daily Advertiser." Here he attracted the notice of Jefferson, who gave him the appointment of translator to the Department of State ; and about the same time he removed to Philadelphia, and became editor of "The National Gazette." In this paper the Federalists were made the subject of the most virulent and unscrupulous attacks ; and at length Hamilton inserted a letter in "The Gazette of the United States," the organ of the party, directly charging the editor with being "the pensioned tool" of the Secretary of State. Freneau at once came forward with a statement under oath that Jefferson had not, either directly or indirectly, written, dictated, or composed a single line for the paper. Hamilton reiterated the charge in some subsequent letters, which are printed in the fifth volume of his Works, and finally Jefferson was forced to make an explanation in a letter to Washington. This letter relieves both Jefferson and Freneau from a part of the obloquy which Hamilton's

letters cast on them ; but the important facts still remain, that Jefferson appointed Freneau to an office which he was incompetent to fill, that while the latter held this office he constantly assailed the policy of the party to which Jefferson was opposed, and that in these attacks even Washington himself was not spared. The paper, however, had only a short existence, and at the end of two years its editor was again thrown on the world. In May, 1795, he started a new paper, "The Jersey Chronicle," at his residence, Mount Pleasant, near Middletown, New Jersey, but it received so little support that at the end of the year it was discontinued. In March, 1797, he made another attempt to establish a newspaper, and issued, in New York, the first number of "The Time-Piece and Literary Companion"; but this paper experienced the same fate as its predecessor, and Freneau soon ceased to be connected with it. With the close of his editorial labors on this journal his public life seems to have ended ; and little else is recorded of him until his death, which occurred on the 18th of December, 1832, in the eighty-first year of his age, from exposure while returning home from the village near which he resided. In crossing a bog-meadow in the evening he lost his way, and when the body was found life was extinct.

The first collection of Freneau's Poems was published at Philadelphia, in 1786, by his friend Bailey, and is reprinted in the volume now before us. Two years later some additional poems and several prose essays were published by the same person, in a volume entitled "The Miscellaneous Works of Mr. Philip Freneau, containing his Essays and Additional Poems." This collection has not fallen under our notice. In 1795 Freneau himself issued from his own press at Mount Pleasant a new edition of his Poems, "Revised and Corrected by the Author," with some variations in the titles of the pieces, and the addition of a large number of new poems. This was followed, in 1809, by a third and enlarged edition ; and in 1815 he published another collection of "Poems on American Affairs, and a Variety of other Subjects, chiefly Moral and Political, written between the Year 1797 and the Present Time." On the whole, we are inclined to think that this is in some important respects the best collection of his Poems ever published, though some of his most popular productions belong to an earlier period of his life.

In spite of the praise bestowed on Freneau's Poems by the English editor, it must be conceded that they cannot justly hold a high rank. Freneau had little imagination or fancy, and but a slight command of the different kinds of verse. There is, moreover, a vein of coarseness running through much that he wrote which renders it unfit for quotation, while the want of harmony in his versification is equally apparent.

Many of his pieces are little better than mere doggerel; and in his more elaborate poems the poverty of his style is seldom redeemed by the vigor or originality of the thought. At the same time it should be observed that his ballads and many of his satirical pieces are admirably fitted to the purpose for which they were composed, and that their earnestness of tone could scarcely fail to arouse and animate the persons who read or listened to them while the events which they commemorate were still fresh in the memory. Some of the lines in the poem on the battle of Eutaw, and in other pieces of the same period, are remarkably spirited and well-turned. A similar remark will apply to the best parts of "Rivington's Last Will and Testament," and to the lines "On Hearing a Political Oration, superficially composed on an important Subject." They show that the real strength of the poet lay in his earnestness. It was this quality which made his verses popular at the time when they were written, and which still constitutes their chief merit.

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- 11.—1. *Explorations and Adventures in Equatorial Africa. With Accounts of the Manners and Customs of the People, and of the Chase of the Gorilla, the Crocodile, Leopard, Elephant, Hippopotamus, and other Animals.* By PAUL B. DU CHAILLU, Corresponding Member of the American Ethnological Society, of the Geographical and Statistical Society of New York, and of the Boston Society of Natural History. With numerous Illustrations. New York: Harper and Brothers. 1861. 8vo. pp. 531.
 2. *Les Bassoutos. Ou vingt-trois Années de Séjour et d'Observations au Sud de l'Afrique.* Par E. CASALIS, Ancien Missionnaire. Paris. 1860. 12mo. pp. 386.

SINCE the publication of the article on African Explorations in the April number of this Review, two new works have come to hand which require notice as supplement to that paper. The larger of these, a goodly octavo, with an abundance of wood-cuts and an accurate map, gives us in its style and form the right to expect a scientific work,—a companion to the volumes of Barth, Livingstone, and Burton. This expectation, we are bound to say, the perusal of the work does not fairly justify. It is entertaining, certainly,—too entertaining,—reminding us too much of the stories of Mayne Reid and Marryatt, and of Robinson Crusoe. The adventures are sufficiently thrilling; happen most dramatically, at the very moment when they ought to happen; hairbreadth escapes abound; and M. du Chaillu is an unquestionable hero, in skill, valor, endurance, and good fortune. Yet, as we read, we have all the